CLAIMS

1. A polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide having the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 54, 56, 58, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 106, 108, 110, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 128, 129, 130, 131, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 142, 143, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 216, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 231, 232, 233, 235, or 236;

(b) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 127, 132, 141, 215, 229, or 234;

(c) a polynucleotide capable of hybridizing to a CYP3A5 gene, wherein said polynucleotide is having a nucleotide exchange, a nucleotide deletion of at least one nucleotide, or at least one additional nucleotide at a position corresponding to position -20643, -20555, -20359, -20367, -20329, -20323, -20310, -6200, -6177, -4336, -3990, -3868, -3844, -3557, -1617, -795, -86, -74, 136, 174 to 176, 230, 3705, 3709/3710, 5215, 5235, 5516, 7182, 7207, 7303, 7424/7427, 12907, 13028, 13077, 13173, 13226, 13376, 14720, 14836, 14903, 15788, 16079, 16931/16932, 16993, 17163, 19069, 19165, 19208, 27050, 27131/27132, 27526, 31499, 31551 or 31611;

(d) a polynucleotide capable of hybridizing to a CYP3A5 gene, wherein said polynucleotide is having an A at a position corresponding to position -20555, -20329, -20323, -4336, -3868, -3844, -795, -86, 230, 5235, 5516, 7182, 7303, 12907, 13028, 13376, 19069 or 19165 of the CYP3A5 gene (Accession No: AF280107.1, wherein position 166220 has been numbered +1 and position 174832 has been numbered +8613, and Accession No: AC005020.2, wherein position 27341 has been numbered +8614), a T at a position corresponding to position -20367, -6200, -74, 3705, 5215, 7207, 14836, 17163, 19208 or 27526 of

the CYP3A5 gene (Accession No: AF280107.1, wherein position 166220 has been numbered +1 and position 174832 has been numbered +8613, and Accession No: AC005020.2, wherein position 27341 has been numbered +8614), a G at a position corresponding to position -6177, -3990, 13077, 14720, 14903, 16993 or 27050 of the CYP3A5 gene (Accession No: AF280107.1, wherein position 166220 has been numbered +1 and position 174832 has been numbered +8613, and Accession No: AC005020.2, wherein position 27341 has been numbered +8614), a C at a position corresponding to position -20643, -20310, -3557, -1617, 136, 13173, 13226, 15788, 16079, 31499, 31551 or 31611 of the CYP3A5 gene (Accession No: AF280107.1, wherein position 166220 has been numbered +1 and position 174832 has been numbered +8613, and Accession No: AC005020.2, wherein position 27341 has been numbered +8614), nucleotide deletions at positions corresponding to positions 174 to 176 of the CYP3A5 gene (Accession No: AF280107.1, wherein position 166220 has been numbered +1 and position 174832 has been numbered +8613), an additional nucleotide at a position corresponding to position 3709/3710 or 27131/27132 of the CYP3A5 gene (Accession No: AF280107.1, wherein position 166220 has been numbered +1 and position 174832 has been numbered +8613, and Accession No: AC005020.2, wherein position 27341 has been numbered +8614), three additional nucleotides at a position corresponding to position 16931/16932 of the CYP3A5 gene (Accession No: AF280107.1, wherein position 166220 has been numbered +1 and position 174832 has been numbered +8613, and Accession No: AC005020.2, wherein position 27341 has been numbered +8614), or a deletion of two nucleotides and nine additional nucleotides inserted at a position corresponding to position 7424 to 7427 of the CYP3A5 gene (Accession No: AF280107.1, wherein position 166220 has been numbered +1 and position 174832 has been numbered +8613);

(e) a polynucleotide encoding a CYP3A5 polypeptide or fragment thereof, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid substitution at a position corresponding to position 30, 100, 130, 149 or 488 of the

CYP3A5 polypeptide (Accession No: NP_000768.1), or at least one amino acid exchange or a stop codon at a position corresponding to position 30 to 34 or 346 to 348 of the CYP3A5 polypeptide (Accession No: NP_000768.1); and

(f) a polynucleotide encoding a CYP3A5 polypeptide or fragment thereof, wherein said polypeptide comprises amino acid substitutions of HGLFK to YGTF. (with the period meaning termination) at a position corresponding to position 30 to 34 of the CYP3A5 polypeptide (Accession No: NP_000768.1), an amino acid substitution of S to Y at a position corresponding to position 100 of the CYP3A5 polypeptide (Accession No: NP_000768.1), an amino acid substitution of R to Q at a position corresponding to position 130 of the CYP3A5 polypeptide (Accession No: NP_000768.1), an amino acid substitution of I to T at a position corresponding to position 149 of the CYP3A5 polypeptide (Accession No: NP_000768.1), an amino acid substitutions of TYD to YL. (with the period meaning termination) at position corresponding to position 346 to 348 of the CYP3A5 polypeptide (Accession No: NP_000768.1), or an amino acid substitution of I to T at a position corresponding to position 488 of the CYP3A5 polypeptide (Accession No: NP_000768.1).

2. A polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide is associated with cancer or diseases including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and AIDS.

3. A polynucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 2 which is DNA or RNA.

4. A gene comprising the polynucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 2.

5. The gene of claim 4 wherein a nucleotide deletion, addition and/or substitution results in altered expression of the variant gene compared to the corresponding wild type gene.

6. A vector comprising a polynucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 3 or the gene of claim 4 or 5.

7. The vector of claim 6, wherein the polynucleotide is operatively linked to expression control sequences allowing expression in prokaryotic or eukaryotic cells or isolated fractions thereof.

8. A host cell genetically engineered with the polynucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 3, the gene of claim 4 or 5 or the vector of claim 6 or 7.

9. A method for producing a molecular variant CYP3A5 polypeptide or fragment thereof comprising
   (a) culturing the host cell of claim 8; and
   (b) recovering said protein or fragment from the culture.

10. A method for producing cells capable of expressing a molecular variant CYP3A5 polypeptide comprising genetically engineering cells with the polynucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 3, the gene of claim 4 or 5 or the vector of claim 6 or 7.

11. A polypeptide or fragment thereof encoded by the polynucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 3, the gene of claim 4 or 5 or obtainable by the method of claim 9 or from cells produced by the method of claim 10.

12. An antibody which binds specifically to the polypeptide of claim 11.

13. The antibody of claim 12 which specifically recognizes an epitope containing one or more amino acid substitution(s) resulting from a nucleotide exchange as defined in claim 1 or 5.

14. The antibody of claim 12 or 13 which is monoclonal or polyclonal.

15. A transgenic non-human animal comprising at least one polynucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 4, the gene of claim 5 or 6 or the vector of claim 7 or 8.

16. The transgenic non-human animal of claim 15 which is a mouse, a rat or a zebrafish.

17. A solid support comprising one or a plurality of the polynucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 3, the gene of claim 4 or 5, the vector of claim 6 or 7, the polypeptide of claim 11, the antibody of claim 12 or 13 or the host cell of claim 8 in immobilized form.

18. The solid support of claim 17, wherein said solid support is a membrane, a glass-, polypropylene- or silicon-chip, are oligonucleotide conjugated beads or bead array, which is assembled on an optical filter substrate.

19. An in vitro method for identifying a polymorphism said method comprising the steps of:
    (a) isolating a polynucleotide of any one claims 1 to 3 or the gene of claim 4 or 5 from a plurality of subgroups of individuals, wherein one subgroup has no prevalence for a CYP3A5 associated disease and at least one or more further subgroup(s) do have prevalence for a CYP3A5 associated disease; and
    (b) identifying a polymorphism by comparing the nucleic acid sequence of said polynucleotide or said gene of said one subgroup having no prevalence for a CYP3A5 associated disease with said at least one or more further subgroup(s) having a prevalence CYP3A5 associated disease.

20. A method for identifying and obtaining a pro-drug or a drug capable of modulating the activity of a molecular variant of a CYP3A5 polypeptide comprising the steps of:
    (a) contacting the polypeptide of claim 11, the solid support of claim 17 or 18, a cell expressing a molecular variant gene comprising a polynucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 3, the gene of claim 4 or 5 or the vector of claim 6 or 7 in the presence of components capable of providing a detectable signal in response to drug activity with a compound to be screened for pro-drug or drug activity; and

(c) detecting the presence or absence of a signal or increase or decrease of a signal generated from the pro-drug or the drug activity, wherein the absence, presence, increase or decrease of the signal is indicative for a putative pro-drug or drug.

21. A method for identifying and obtaining an inhibitor of the activity of a molecular variant of a CYP3A5 polypeptide comprising the steps of:

(d) contacting the protein of claim 11, the solid support of claim 17 or 18 or a cell expressing a molecular variant gene comprising a polynucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 3 or the gene of claim 4 or 5 or the vector of claim 6 or 7 in the presence of components capable of providing a detectable signal in response to drug activity with a compound to be screened for inhibiting activity; and

(e) detecting the presence or absence of a signal or increase or decrease of a signal generated from the inhibiting activity, wherein the absence or decrease of the signal is indicative for a putative inhibitor.

22. The method of claim 20 or 21, wherein said cell is a cell of claim 9, obtained by the method of claim 10 or can be obtained by the transgenic non-human animal of claim 15 or 16.

23. A method of identifying and obtaining a pro-drug or drug capable of modulating the activity of a molecular variant of a CYP3A5 polypeptide comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting the host cell of claim 8, the cell obtained by the method of claim 10, the polypeptide of claim 11 or the solid support of claim 17 or 18 with the first molecule known to be bound by a CYP3A5 polypeptide to form a first complex of said polypeptide and said first molecule;

(b) contacting said first complex with a compound to be screened, and

(c) measuring whether said compound displaces said first molecule from said first complex.

24. A method of identifying and obtaining an inhibitor capable of the activity of a molecular variant of a CYP3A5 polypeptide or its gene product comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting the host cell of claim 8, the cell obtained by the method of claim 10, the protein of claim 11 or the solid support of claim 17 or 18 with the first molecule known to be bound by a CYP3A5 polypeptide to form a first complex of said protein and said first molecule;

(b) contacting said first complex with a compound to be screened, and

(c) measuring whether said compound displaces said first molecule from said first complex.

25. The method of claim 23 or 24, wherein said measuring step comprises measuring the formation of a second complex of said protein and said compound.

26. The method of any one of claim 23 to 25, wherein said measuring step comprises measuring the amount of said first molecule that is not bound to said protein.

27. The method of any one of claims 23 to 26, wherein said first molecule is labeled.

28. A method for the production of a pharmaceutical composition comprising the steps of the method of any one of claims 20 to 27; and the further step of formulating the compound identified and obtained or a derivative thereof in a pharmaceutically acceptable form.

29. A method of diagnosing a disorder related to the presence of a molecular variant of a CYP3A5 gene or susceptibility to such a disorder comprising determining the presence of a polynucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 3 or the gene of claim 4 or 5 in a sample from a subject.

30. The method of claim 29 further comprising determining the presence of a polypeptide of claim 11 or the antibody of any one of claims 12 to 14.

31. A method of diagnosing a disorder related to the presence of a molecular variant of a CYP3A5 gene or susceptibility to such a disorder comprising determining the presence of a polypeptide of claim 11 or the antibody of any one of claims 12 to 14 in a sample from a subject.

32. The method of any one of claims 29 to 31, wherein said disorder is cancer or diseases including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and AIDS.

33. The method of any one of claims 29 to 32 comprising PCR, ligase chain reaction, restriction digestion, direct sequencing, nucleic acid amplification techniques, hybridization techniques mass spectroscopy or immunoassays.

34. A method of detection of the polynucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 3 or the gene of claim 4 or 5 in a sample comprising the steps of
    (a) contacting the solid support of claim 17 or 18 with the sample under conditions allowing interaction of the polynucleotide of claim 1 to 3 or the gene of claim 4 or 5 with the immobilized targets on a solid support and;
    (b) determining the binding of said polynucleotide or said gene to said immobilized targets on a solid support.

35. An in vitro method for diagnosing a disease comprising the steps of the method of claim 34, wherein binding of said polynucleotide or gene to said immobilized targets on said solid support is indicative for the presence or the absence of said disease or a prevalence for said disease.

36. A diagnostic composition comprising the polynucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 4, the gene of claim 3 or 4, the vector of claim 6 or 7, the polypeptide of claim 11 or the antibody of claim 12 or 13.

37. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the polynucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 3, the gene of claim 4 or 5, the vector of claim 6 or 7, the polypeptide of claim 11 or the antibody of claim 12 or 13.

38. Use of the polynucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 3, a polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID No: 104, a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID No: 145, the gene of claim 4 or 5, the vector of claim 6 or 7, the polypeptide of claim 11, a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID No: 145 or the antibody of claim 12 or 13 for the preparation of a diagnostic composition for diagnosing a disease.

39. Use of the polynucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 3, a polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID No: 104, a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID No: 145, the gene of claim 4 or 5, the vector of claim 6 or 7, the polypeptide of claim 11, a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID No: 145 or the antibody of claim 12 or 13 for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for treating a disease.

40. Use of a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide having the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 82, 88, 104 or 112;

(b) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No: 127, 132, 141 or 145;

(c) a polynucleotide capable of hybridizing to a CYP3A5 gene, wherein said polynucleotide is having at least one additional nucleotide at a position corresponding to position 3709/3710 or 27131/27132 of the CYP3A5 gene (Accession No: AF280107.1, wherein position 166220 has been numbered +1 and position 174832 has been numbered +8613, and Accession No: AC005020.2, wherein position 27341 has been numbered +8614) or a nucleotide exchange at a position corresponding to position 7303 or 27289 of the CYP3A5 gene (Accession No: AF280107.1, wherein position 166220 has been numbered +1 and position 174832 has been numbered +8613, and Accession No: AC005020.2, wherein position 27341 has been numbered +8614);

(d) a polynucleotide capable of hybridizing to a CYP3A5 gene, wherein said polynucleotide is having an additional G nucleotide at a position

corresponding to position 3709/3710 of the CYP3A5 gene (Accession No: AF280107.1, wherein position 166220 has been numbered +1 and position 174832 has been numbered +8613, and Accession No: AC005020.2, wherein position 27341 has been numbered +8614), an additional T nucleotide at a position corresponding to position 27131/27132 of the CYP3A5 gene (Accession No: AF280107.1, wherein position 166220 has been numbered +1 and position 174832 has been numbered +8613, and Accession No: AC005020.2, wherein position 27341 has been numbered +8614), or an A at a position corresponding to position 7303 or 27289 of the CYP3A5 gene (Accession No: AF280107.1, wherein position 166220 has been numbered +1 and position 174832 has been numbered +8613, and Accession No: AC005020.2, wherein position 27341 has been numbered +8614);

for the preparation of a diagnostic composition for diagnosing a disease in a subject having a genome comprising a variant allele of the CYP3A5 gene, wherein said allele is having an A at a position corresponding to position 6986 of the CYP3A5 gene (Accession No: AF280107.1, wherein position 166220 has been numbered +1 and position 174832 has been numbered +8613, and Accession No: AC005020.2, wherein position 27341 has been numbered +8614).

41. Use of a polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide having an A at a position corresponding to position 14690 of the CYP3A5 gene (Accession No: AF280107.1, wherein position 166220 has been numbered +1 and position 174832 has been numbered +8613, and Accession No: AC005020.2, wherein position 27341 has been numbered +8614) for the preparation of a diagnostic composition for diagnosing a disease in a subject having a genome comprising a variant allele of the CYP3A5 gene, wherein said allele is having an A at a position corresponding to position 6986 of the CYP3A5 gene (Accession No: AF280107.1, wherein position 166220 has been numbered +1 and position 174832 has been numbered +8613, and Accession No: AC005020.2, wherein position 27341 has been numbered +8614).

42. The use of claim 40 or 41, wherein said subject is an African American.

43. The use of any one of claims 38 to 41, wherein said disease is cancer or diseases including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and AIDS.

44. A diagnostic kit for detection of a single nucleotide polymorphism comprising the polynucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 3, the gene of claim 4 or 5, the vector of claim 6 or 7, the polypeptide of claim 11, the antibody of claim 12 or 13, the host cell of claim 8, the transgenic non-human animal of claim 15 or 16 or the solid support of claim 17 or 18.